(b) whether the State Government had requested the authorities for granting Rs. 2.00 Crore for aquiring the lands in Devakar Village and for shifting and rehabilitating the affected people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) Devakar village is located on the left bank of river Kali in the Western Ghats, towards east of Kaiga project and Upstream of Kadra Dam. Originally, Devakar village comprised to two small hamlets. The hamlet falling within the exclusion zone of Kaiga project was acquired and rehabilitation thereof has been completed. The second hamlet is beyond the acquisition zone of Kaiga Atomic Power project. The Karnata Power Corporation Ltd., (KPCL) has acquired all the land which is submerged consequent to the construction of Kadra Dam, but in regard to the second hamlet of Devakar, the original road access is no more available due to water logging and the public have to use boats. In a meeting held on 11th November, 1997 under the Chairmanship of the then Chief Minister of Karnataka, it was proposed that NPCIL contribute Rs. 2 crore for acquisition of this area and rehabilitation of the villagers and that KPCIL would undertake the responsibility of implementation of the rehabilitation package. NPCIL has agreed to contribute Rs. 2 crore for acquisition and rehabilitation as a gesture of good will and as a special case even though it is not connected with the Atomic Power Project.

Safety measures at Rawatbhata Power Plant

2334. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 786 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd March, 2000 and state what safety measures have been taken to avoid serious nuclear leakage resulting in destruction of lives and property in large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): This Atomic Power reactor has all the features in place to ensure safe operation. These include redundancy and diversity of all safety systems, double countainment, exclusion zone and availability of qualified and trained personnel to operate the plant as per technical specifications approved by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

An environmental survey laboratory located outside the exclusion zone collects samples of food, water and other relevant samples to estimate the dose, if any, to members of the public.

The safety features of the reactor and the operation as per the technical specifications ensures that nuclear accidents are entirely unlikely. An emergency plan is also in place to mitigate the consequences of any accident, in the event that it should occur.

Stay of Karmapa in India

2335. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow Karmapa Dorji, who escaped from Tibet, to stay in India;

(b) whether the Dalai Lama has pleaded on the above lines and several other representations have also been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, arrived in Dharamsala from Tibet on January 5,2000. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has publicly stated that Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji would like to stay in India and study. Representations have been received from his supporters regarding his continued stay in India. Representations have also been received against his continued stay in India. The matter requires careful study taking into account all relevant factors.

France's support to get permanent membership in Security Council

†2336. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has made an offer to support the claim and efforts of India to get the permanent membership of Security Council;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.